

Atty. Dkt. No. 074022-2305

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend claim 1 as follows. After this amendment, claims 1-8 are pending in the application.

1. (Presently amended) A support for detecting the presence of a target nucleic acid in a reflection-based assay comprising an optically smooth, flat, light reflecting surface, said surface having a nucleic acid complementary to said target nucleic acid bound thereto; and said support having a first set of reflective and transmissive properties in response to light impinging thereon and having a second set of reflective and transmissive properties, different from said first set, in response to light when the target nucleic acid is bound to the nucleic acid complementary to said target nucleic acid and creating a change in mass on said optically active substrate.

2. (Original) The support according to claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid bound to said surface is bound by covalent bonding.

3. (Previously presented) The support according to claim 1 wherein said support comprises silicon or glass.

4. (Original) The support according to claim 1, wherein said light reflecting surface comprises a layer of aluminum or silicon.

5. (Original) The support according to claim 4, wherein said layer of aluminum or silicon is a layer of a compound selected from the group consisting of silicon dioxide, silicon monoxide, and aluminum oxide.

6. (Original) The support according to claim 5, wherein said support further comprises an anti-reflection layer.

7. (Original) The support according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid bound to said surface is indirectly bound through an intermediate molecule bound to said surface.

Atty. Dkt. No. 074022-2305

8. (Original) The support according to any one of claims 1-7, wherein said support further comprises said target nucleic acid bound to said complementary nucleic acid, wherein reflectance from said light-reflecting surface is altered in comparison to reflectance by said light-reflecting surface in the absence of said bound target nucleic acid.